

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
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S/PRS - MR. KING
H - MISS FOLGER
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 022350Z NEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AMEMBASSY SANAA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 2,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. BOB, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THERE HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF STORIES OVER THE WEEKEND AND LAST WEEK ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR. ONE OF THOSE STORIES I THINK IS CITING THE SECRETARY AS FAVORING POSSIBLE RETURN BY FEBRUARY OR MARCH. COULD YOU GIVE US WHAT HIS POSITION IS OR WHAT THE AMERICAN POSITION IS NOW ON RETURN TO GENEVA?

A. WELL, OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS NOT CHANGED. IT IS JUST AS WE HAVE STATED HERE MANY TIMES BEFORE. IT'S UP TO THE PARTIES TO DECIDE WHEN IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RETURN TO GENEVA. AS WE HAVE INDICATED MANY TIMES, WE ARE PERFECTLY PREPARED TO RETURN

TO GENEVA WHEN THE PARTIES DECIDE THAT IT IS THE TIME TO DO SO.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES FAVOR SUCH A RETURN IF THERE IS NO FURTHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON SINAI?

A. JOHN, I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT. I THINK THAT'S PREMATURE.

Q. BOB, GOING BACK TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COMMENT THAT YOU MADE, IS IT STILL OUR POSITION THAT THE PARTIES MUST DECIDE ON ANY NEW PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE AND THAT
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EACH OF THE SIX PARTICIPANTS, THE U.N. PRESENTLY EXCEPTED, HAS A VETO OVER THE ENTRY OF ANY OF THE OTHER PARTIES?

A. I DON'T KNOW, FRANKLY, THE PROCEDURES WITH REGARD TO THE VETO, WITH REGARD TO THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I CAN CHECK INTO IT.

Q. WELL, AS THERE ANY --

A. WE ARE WILLING TO GO THERE, JOE, WHEN THE PARTIES THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WANT TO GO. WE HAVE SAID THIS MANY TIMES.

Q. YES. BUT I AM THINKING ABOUT AN ADDITIONAL PARTY THAT MIGHT WANT TO GO.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER EMISSARIES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST COMING HERE AT ABOUT THE TIME, DURING THE REST OF THIS MONTH -- ALLON IS COMING HERE DECEMBER 9.

A. DECEMBER 9, YES.

Q. IS FAHMI COMING, AS WELL, ABOUT THAT TIME?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI IS PLANNING TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q. ANY OF THE OTHERS -- SAY FROM SYRIA OR FROM JORDAN?

A. I HAVE NO -- TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ANSWER IS: NO.

Q. ARE THERE ANY CONTACTS BEING MADE OF ANY OFFICIALS, OR MEMBERS OF THE PLO, BY OUR PEOPLE?

A. NO. WE STAY JUST WHERE WE HAVE BEEN ON THAT. I HAVE NOTHING NEW TO COMMENT. I THINK IT HAS BEEN MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR.

Q. WHAT IS ACTUALLY THE CONCRETE PURPOSE OF THE ALLON VISIT TO WASHINGTON/ I'M NOT TALKING IN TERMS OF "EXPLORING FURTHER MOVES FOR PEACE" BUT CAN YOU GIVE US SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE ON THIS VISIT?
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A. NO, I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WAS MADE HERE -- I GUESS THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO, WHILE WE WERE IN CHINA.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT, INCIDENTALLY, TO MEET WITH GOLDA MEIR WHEN SHE ARRIVES TODAY?

A. I KNOW OF NO PLANS.
YOU CAN CHECK WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, AS FAR AS THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED. I KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR THE SECRETARY.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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